

[18 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

further modified so that railway could allot bookstalls to any other eligible categories at new platforms constructed after, 1.1.1976 even at those railway stations where M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. have sole selling rights. This is in conformity with the provisions of article 19(1) (G) of the Constitution of India.

Railway Development Corporation

2915. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any Corporation called 'Railway Development Corporation', under which the slums near railway lines were planned to be removed and the people living there, were to be rehabilitated;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) in which year the said Corporation was constituted; and

(d) the number of persons allotted houses, free of cost under the rehabilitation scheme after displacement since the constitution of the said Corporation, giving the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Track Conversion in Tamil Nadu

2916. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of track remaining in Tamil Nadu to be converted into BG, sector wise;

(b) what steps are being taken to convert these tracks;

(c) when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) what are the reasons for the delay in the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Approximately 1960 km of track in Tamil Nadu is yet to be converted into BG. Details are as follows.

(I) Section where gauge conversion is sanctioned and work is in progress.

S. No.	Name of the Project	Length (km)	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in cr.)	Status of the projects
Gauge Conversion				
1.	Cuddalore-Salem via Vrindhachalam	191	198.68	The work was included in the budget 1999-2000 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances action for which has been initiated.
2.	Thanjavur-Nagore section of Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore gauge conversion Project with extension to Karaikal.	85	138.13	Tiruchchirappalli; Thanjavur parallel BG (50 km) line has been completed and commissioned for passenger traffic on 01.01.98. Work is in progress in Thanjavur-Nagore section. Work will be completed as per availability of resources in the coming years.
3.	Quilon-Tirunelveli Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion project	357 (255 km is in Tamil Nadu)	280.00	Final location survey has been completed. Physical work on bridges and earth-work started in Virudhunagar-Tenkasi and Tirunelveli Tiruchendur sections. Work would be completed as per availability of resources.
4.	Villupuram-Pondicherry	38 (28 km)	30.00	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Final location survey is in progress

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S. No.	Name of the Project	Length (km)	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in cr.)	Status of the projects
		in Tamil Nadu)		which will be followed by land acquisition. Work would be started once land becomes available.
5.	Rameswaram-Madurai	162	240.00	Necessary clearances have been obtained. Earthwork and minor bridges works are in progress. The work will be progressed as per availability of resources in the coming years.
6.	Thanjavur-Villupuram	192	223.00	Work has been included in the budget with the proviso that the work will be taken up after getting requisite clearances action for which has been initiated.
7.	Tiruchchirappalli-Manamadurai	150	175.00	Requisite clearances have since been received. Preliminary arrangements for taking up the work are being made.
8.	Villupuram-Katpadi	161	175.00	Requisite clearances have since been obtained. Preliminary arrangements are being made for starting the work.
9.	Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpattu-Conversion into	116	455.24	Work included in the budget 1998-99 on equal cost sharing basis with Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

S. No.	Name of the Project	Length (km)	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in cr.)	Status of the projects
	broad gauge			Works connected with conversion of MG main line between Chennai Egmore and Tambaram as first phase of the project have been taken up. Tenders for construction of Major/Minor bridges, ballast collection. Permanent Way have been awarded. Conversion of MG main line has commenced from 1.7.2000.
10.	Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	104 (9 km in Tamil Nadu)	173.50	Out of 19 major bridges. 15 have been completed and 4 are in progress. Earthwork and ballast supply is also in progress in the entire section. Work is proceeding well and will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

II. Section in which the surveys for Gauge Conversion in progress/ completed.

Description of the work	Length in km	Present position of the work
Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat and Pollachi-Podanur-Coimbatore	175	Survey completed. Due to unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project for the present.

Description of the work	Length in km	Present position of the work
Madurai-Bodinayakanur	90	Survey is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

III. Section in which there is no proposal for gauge conversion at present.

Description of the work	Length in km
Mayiladuthurai-Karaikkudi	187
Manamadurai-Virudhunagar	67
Mettupalayam-Uthagamandalam	46
Tiruturaipundi-Agasthiyamalli-Kodaikkarai	46

(c) and (d) No Targets have yet been fixed for above gauge conversion projects. The work will be progressed as per availability of resources in the coming years.

Unmanned Railway Crossings in Rajasthan

†2917. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of unmanned Railway crossings in Rajasthan; and
- (b) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid accidents at these crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There are 2223 unmanned level crossings in Rajasthan.

(b) The following steps have been taken to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings.

1. Proper Road Signs have been provided on the approaches to level crossings so that the road vehicle drivers are made aware of the existence of a level crossing.
2. Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on the approaches

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.